

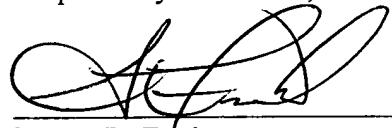
REMARKS

This preliminary amendment is provided to change the format of the application to conform to U.S. practice. The amendments made to the claims are not made for purposes relating to patentability, and are not made in response to prior art or any objections or rejections to the claims. Thus, the Applicant has not intended to narrow, nor has the Applicant narrowed, the scope of any of the claims resulting from the international application by way of this preliminary amendment.

The Applicant respectfully requests that this preliminary amendment be entered into the record prior to calculation of the filing fee and prior to examination and consideration of the above-identified national stage patent application.

If the Examiner would like to discuss any issues relating to this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney of record at 651-686-6633 (ext. 110) to discuss any issues related to this case.

Date: December 21, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By _____
Steven R. Funk
Reg. No. 37,830